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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/084,322	02/28/2002	Hiroshi Minagawa	P21975.DC2.doc	6743
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GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C. 1950 ROLAND CLARKE PLACE RESTON, VA 20191				
			EXAMINER NGUYEN, KIMBINH T	
			ART UNIT 2671	PAPER NUMBER 12

DATE MAILED: 05/05/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/084,322

Applicant(s)

MINAGAWA ET AL.

Examiner

Kimbinh T. Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 February 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-8,10-15 and 17-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-8,10-15 and 17-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to amendment filed 2/25/01.
2. Claims 1, 3-8, 10-15, 17-21 are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1, 5, 6-8, 10, 13-15, 17, 19-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kurlander (6,069,622).

Claims 1, 8, Kurlander teaches a display device an electronic comic including at least one frame on each page (to display a series of comic panels, order sequentially by time, on a display screen; col. 2, lines 36-37), which frame comprises a balloon portion displaying words and a frame image (see abstract), wherein the apparatus uses image data (col. 2, lines 40-42), including the balloon portion and the frame image, and text data indicating words in order to display words based on the text data in the balloon portion (abstract). Kurlander does not teach frame image; however, Kurlander teaches each comic panel provides a graphical representation of an instance in time of the sequential course of events. A scroll bar displayed on the display device is provided for scrolling through the plurality of comic panels (col. 3, lines 42-49), this feature related to

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a frame image; therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize a frame image for displaying comic representation, because it would provide a graphical representation of an instance of time during a sequential course of events (col. 3, lines 54-67). Kurlander also teaches the electronic comic is displayed frame by frame on the screen (a current comic panel is displayed on the display device in the sequential course of events; col. 2, lines 50-59; col. 13, lines 48-50) by zooming-in each frame sequentially "the CG system selects a camera zoom (step 608 of fig. 6) that shows each of the displayed characters and does not select a camera zoom that would display a character cut at the neck or ankles" (col. 13, lines 32-40), it means the camera should select a camera zooming in each frame sequentially to avoid displaying a character cut at the neck or ankles (to keep the image remains in focus).

Claims 6, 7, 13, 14, Kurlander discloses frames on one page are displayed, and words in a predetermined frame of the displayed frames are displayed sequentially in a predetermined frame order (current panel (frame) and new panel (frame) of an instance in time of a sequential course; col. 2, lines 54-62).

Claims 5, 12, Kurlander discloses words are displayed part by part within the balloon portion in a predetermined order (col. 6, lines 54-67; fig. 4).

Claims 15, 19-21, the rationale provided in the rejection of claims 1, 5, 7 is incorporated herein. In addition, Kurlander teaches a computer readable storage medium (col. 22, lines 40-43).

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5. Claims 3, 10, 17, 22-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kurlander (6,069,622) in view of Astle (5,485,611).

Claims 3, 10, Kurlander does not teach fade-in or fade-out processing; however, Astle discloses frames on one page are displayed, and either fade-in processing or fade-out processing is performed on a predetermined frame of the displayed frames; at least one frame including words in the balloon portion is displayed, and either fade-in processing or fade-out processing is performed on all of the displayed words (detecting fade-in or fade-out; col. 7, lines 33-53). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the fades between video frames as taught by Astle into the comic generation system of Kurlander, because it would allow a user likely recognize at least some of the events (fade-in or fade-out) between the frames (col. 7, lines 49-50).

Claim 17, the rationale provided in the rejection of claim 3 is incorporated herein. In addition, Kurlander teaches a computer readable storage medium (col. 22, lines 40-43).

Claims 22-24, Kurlander does not teach displaying a next frame in response to a user; however, Astle teaches the next index frame may be determined quickly enough to display it for the user (col. 17, lines 7-9). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the next index frame taught by Astle into the comic generation system of Kurlander, because it would produce and display index frames in real-time corresponding to the most recently-processed portions, any time a user viewing the database index frame of interest, it

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would very quickly be positioned to the corresponding video sequence (col. 17, lines 2-13).

6. Claims 4, 11, 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kurlander (6,069,622) in view of Kleinman (EP 0304892 A2).

Claims 4, 11, Kurlander does not teach text data and the languages; however, Kleinman discloses text data corresponding to at least two languages are stored as the text data and text data corresponding to a selected language is displayed within the balloon in response to a predetermined operation (col. 4, lines 7-14). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate text strings to be changed or translated to another language as taught by Kleinman into the comic generation system of Kurlander, because it would allow a program to specify the placement of different objects independent of the text font chosen (col. 4, lines 20-24).

Claim 18, the rationale provided in the rejection of claim 4 is incorporated herein. In addition, Kurlander teaches a computer readable storage medium (col. 22, lines 40-43).

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments filed 2/25/04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive., because the subject matter of the dependent claims 2, 9 and 16 have been canceled and have been included in the independent claims 1, 8 and 15. However, these limitations taught in the Kurlander's reference (see the Office Action). Claims 1, 8 and 15 Kurlander teaches the electronic comic is displayed frame by frame on the

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screen (a current comic panel is displayed on the display device in the sequential course of events; col. 2, lines 50-59; col. 13, lines 48-50) by zooming-in each frame sequentially "the CG system selects a camera zoom (step 608 of fig. 6) that shows each of the displayed characters and does not select a camera zoom that would display a character cut at the neck or ankles" (col. 13, lines 32-40), it means the camera should select a camera zooming in each frame sequentially to avoid displaying a character cut at the neck or ankles or to keep the image of the character remains in focus. Claims 4, 11 and 18, Kleinman teaches that text strings can be translated to another language without re-specifying their position, because the text fonts (from one language) which have been already stored in the text data may be changed by the user (translating to another language). This is specially important for programs which run on system which have the capability to support a large number of different text fonts; col. 4, lines 7-24.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

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8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Kimbinh Nguyen** whose telephone number is **(703) 305-9683**. The examiner can normally be reached **(Monday- Thursday from 7:00 AM to 4:30 PM and alternate Fridays from 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM)**.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Zimmerman, can be reached at (703) 305-9798.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

Or faxed to:


(703) 872-9314 (for Technology Center 2600 only)

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Part II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

Kimbinh Nguyen

April 26, 2004


MARK ZIMMERMAN
SUPERVISOR, PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600